



Office of the Mayor

May 14, 2009

The Honorable Ralph Hall
U.S. House of Representatives
2405 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Request for Highway Authorization Bill Funding
Widen FM 2478 from US 380 to FM 1461

Dear Congressman Hall:

Thank you for providing us the opportunity to submit this request for Federal funding through the upcoming Highway Authorization Bill. Even during the current economic turndown, McKinney continues to grow and it is anticipated that growth will return to its high pace at the end of the turndown. In order to accommodate this growth and the increasing needs of our people and businesses, the City is undertaking necessary infrastructure projects.

McKinney is currently partnering with Collin County, the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) and TxDOT to construct a 6-lane section of FM 2478 (Custer Road) from Stonebridge Drive to US 380. The next logical step is to continue that construction north of US 380 to FM 1461, as shown on the attached exhibit. This project will reconstruct and widen approximately three miles of FM 2478 from the current 2-lane road to a 4-lane divided road with the potential for expansion to six lanes. The anticipated cost of this project is approximately \$33.8 million. We request your support for funding for this project under the Highway Authorization Bill.

The benefits of widening FM 2478 include:

- Improving connectivity north of US 380 in the growing FM 2478 corridor that will benefit Collin County, the City of McKinney, the Town of Prosper, and even the City of Celina.
- Improving the safety of this rural roadway section by upgrading it to an urban section in one of the fastest growing areas in the country and within a significant north/south transportation corridor.

- The installation of a median to create a divided roadway section will reduce accidents and improve vehicle and pedestrian safety.
- The expanded roadway will allow for sidewalks and be more pedestrian-friendly.
- Reducing current and anticipated traffic congestion in this corridor.
- Creating economic development opportunities through this corridor.

The City of McKinney has already sought public input on this project through the Capital Improvements Program budget public hearings and through the public input meetings and public hearings associated with the City's Comprehensive Plan. Additional public input will be sought at several points in the proposed project, including:

- **The next Capital Improvements Program budget public hearings.**
- **Upcoming bond elections to obtain the remaining local match funds (potentially).**
- **NCTCOG funding request process.**
- **Environmental process.**
- **Preliminary design meetings with area property owners.**

The City of McKinney has received a commitment from Collin County to provide \$2.5 million towards the design costs and right of way acquisition for this project. The City has also included \$2.5 million in its proposed Capital Improvements Program. We anticipate pursuing the remaining local match through the Texas Department of Transportation, North Central Texas Council of Governments' grants and, if necessary, through upcoming City of McKinney and Collin County bond programs. These local funds, combined with federal funding under the Highway Bill, will be used to cover the costs of the project.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this request. I and the staff at the City of McKinney are available at your convenience to address any questions or comments you may have.

Sincerely,



Bill Whitfield
Mayor